

Message Text

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TAGS: EFIS

SUBJ: INDUSTRY LEADER COMMENTS ON ECUADOREAN FISHERIES

MARCH 5 ACTING COMMERCIAL OFFICER AND I VISITED OSWALDO TRUJILLO, MANAGER OF INEPACA (VAN CAMP TUNA) AND PRESIDENT OF ASOCIACION PESQUERA DEL ECUADOR IN CONNECTION WITH FISH/FISH PROCESSING CATALOG SHOW. TRUJILLO STATED TIMING FOR SHOW WAS MOST OPPORTUNE BECAUSE OF NEW GOVERNMENT PROGRAM TO PROVIDE CREDIT ON GENEROUS TERMS TO FISHERMEN AND FISH INDUSTRY. DURING EXTENDED CONVERSATION, TRUJILLO MADE FOLLOWING COMMENTS OF INTEREST:

A. IT POSSIBLE THAT UNDER SECRETARY FOR FISHERIES RIVADENEIRA WILL BE REPLACED WITHIN WEEKS. POSSIBLE NEXT ASSIGNMENT FOR RIVADENEIRA IS AS MANAGER OF ECUATORIANA DE ATUN S.A. TRUJILLO STATED HE HAD BEEN OFFERED JOB AS RIVADENEIRA REPLACEMENT. HE HAS DECLINED BUT FEARS HE MAY BE DRAFTED. HE DEVOTING MAXIMUM EFFORT TO AVOID BEING NAMED TO THIS DIFFICULT AND DEMANDING JOB.

B. ECUADOREAN FISHING INDUSTRY GENERALLY PLEASED WITH NEW FISHING LAW. TRUJILLO STATED THAT STRENUOUS LOBBYING EFFORTS BY PRIVATE SECTOR RESULTED IN ELIMINATING STRONGEST OPPOSITIONS OF DRAFTS THAT CALLED FOR GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION IN PRIVATE SECTOR. HE BELIEVES THAT NEXT MAJOR HURDLE TO BE OVERCOME IS TO INSURE

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REASONABLE IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS WHICH MUST BE ISSUED WITHIN

90 DAYS OF EFFECTIVE DATE OF LAW. HEAD OF NATIONAL DIRECTORATE OF FISHERIES, WILSON ARROYO, HAS BEEN GIVEN RESPONSIBILITY FOR DRAFTING REGULATIONS. TRUJILLO HAS LITTLE REGARD FOR ARROYO AND EVEN LESS FOR HIS STAFF ("THE ONLY THING THEY KNOW ABOUT FISHING IS HOW TO EAT CEVICHE"). TRUJILLO IS OPTIMISTIC THAT SOUND REGULATIONS WILL BE ISSUED BECAUSE MEMBER OF HIS STAFF IS ASSISTING ARROYO IN THE DRAFTING.

C. TUNA FISHING IN MONTH OF FEBRUARY BEST IN YEARS WITH ECUADOREAN BOATS GETTING TOTAL CATCH OF ABOUT 3,000 TONS. TWO INEPACA BOATS HAD FOLLOWED TUNA INTO PERUVIAN-CLAIMED WATERS AFTER PURCHASE OF PERUVIAN LICENSES. TUNA SUBSEQUENTLY "DISAPPEARED". TRUJILLO SAID HE HAD HEARD THAT MORE THAN DOUBLE ECUADOREAN LICENSES SOLD TO FOREIGN FLAG VESSELS THIS YEAR AS COMPARED WITH LAST.
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